Statement-II

Details of additional proposals received from voluntary organisations in Himachal Pradesh.

Sl. No.	Name of the Organisation	Purpose	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Rinchen Zehgpo Society Spiti Development, Distt. Kangra	Setting up-residential school for STs.	A sum of Rs. 1,77,960 has been sanctioned during 1998-99.
2.	Himachal Pradesh Mahila Kalyan Mandal, Kullu	Running old age Home.	State Govt. of Himachal Pradesh has been requested for revalidation of their recommendation/inspection-report.
3.	Yuva Satta, Shimla	De-addiction Centre-Telephone Counselling	Organisation advised through the State Govt. to modify the porposal.

New Gold Mines in Bihar

1356. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gold mines in the country;

(b) whether Government have found gold reserves in the country, particularly in Bihar;

(c) if so, the steps taken for mining of gold in the new gold reserves in Bihar; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The number of working gold mines in the country is seven.

(b) to (d) Geological Survey of India (GSI) and/or Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) have established gold reserves in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The recoverable reserves of gold in the country as on 1.4.1995 reported by the Indian Bureau of Mines (I.B.M.) are placed at 17.78 million tonnes of ore containing 67.9 tonnes of gold metal. The recoverable reserves of gold in Bihar are placed at 7200 tonnes of ore containing 100 (One hundred) kgs. of gold in Singhbhum district. The Central Government as per Section 5 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 have, in March 1998, accorded prior approval to the State Government of Bihar for grant of mining lease for gold ore over an area of 19.50 hectares in Village Kunderkocha of Singhbhum district in favour of M/s Man Mohan Minerals Industries (Pvt.) Ltd. for a period of 30 years.

Revival proposal for IISCO

1357. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tyaz Pron Exports, Russia has requested Government for writing off the entire ac-

cumulated losses of the Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) for acceptance of the revival proposal for the sick company; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS); (a) and (b) IISCO is a sick company and has been under reference to BIFR since June, 1994 for determination of measures in regard to the future of the company. SAIL have submitted a proposal which inter alia includes writing off of accumulated losses, to revive IISCO in a joint Venture (JV) partnership with M/s Tyaz pron export (TPE) of Russia. This proposal is dependent on the use of Rupee Debt Funds for which an Inter Govermental Agreement between the Gvoernment of Russia and Government of India is required. The project envisages an investment of Rs. 2107 crores. Govt. of India's efforts in this direction culminated in the signing of a Protocal in the Fifth Session of Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission in November, 1998. In the Protocol, it has been proposed to use a part of India Rupee Debts as contribution of the Russian side to the Joint Venture Company.

Accordingly, Govt. of India have already formally presented to the Russian side the draft of an agreement which could be signed between the two countries. The response of the Russian Govt. is awaited. However, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

Import of Steel

1358. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is importing Steel;

(b) whether steel is being dumped to kill the local steel industry; and

(c) whether Government are considering imposing anti-dumping duty on imported steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Indian steel industry is facing competition on account of import at low prices and dumping from some countries. On the recommendation of the Designated Authority in the Ministry of Commerce Government have imposed anti-dumping duties on imports of HR Coils, HR Strips/Sheets/Plates and Boiler Quality Plates from Russia and Ukraine.

Distribution of Funds From Steel Development Fund

1359. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that so far funds from Steel Development Fund have been made available to SAIL and TISCO only;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some other steel companies approached for this fund; and

(d) if so, governments response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) Loans have been granted from Steel Development Fund to Steel Authority of India Ltd. Tata Iron & Steel Company Ltd., Rastriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. and Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd. for modernisation/expansion schemes of these Main Producers. The Main Producers, i.e. SAIL, TISCO, RINL and IISCO were the first generation steel producers through whom an element of surcharge (SDF levy) was collected which became the corpus of SDF. The steel produced by other steel producers in the private sector and imported steel were not subjected to the SDF levy. Recently some steel companies have approached for loans from this fund. However, the loan